

Manweller won't applaud state Supreme Court

Posted on January 14, 2015

Yakima Herald

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OLYMPIA, Wash. — Rep. Matt Manweller, R-Ellensburg, is one of many Republican lawmakers who think the state Supreme Court has overstepped its authority in a ruling that forces the Legislature to put more money into public education.

But he was the only one that didn't stand and applaud at Gov. Jay Inslee's State of the State address Tuesday when the justices were introduced and seated as part of the ceremonies leading up to the speech. The Seattle Times' veteran political reporter Jim Brunner noticed Manweller remaining seated, and later caught up with him to find out why.

"I'm not going to stand in respect for a group of judges who have done so much damage to the Constitution they are supposed to defend," Manweller told Brunner, as [reported here](#).

Manweller, whose district includes a portion of Yakima County, is beginning his second term in the Legislature. Manweller is also a political science professor at Central Washington University and had long been active in party politics before running for office himself.

The justices have made statements since the much-debated [McCleary ruling](#) that the court is lawfully doing its part as an independent branch of government in a system of checks and balances. You can read the court's contempt order against the Legislature from September by [clicking here](#).